



Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.



Proposed House Bill No. HB-5135

AN ACT EXPANDING THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO STUDENTS OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS

March 8, 2022

Respectfully submitted to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee Co-Chairs Elliott and Slap, and Honorable Members of this Committee.

My name is Allie French, and I am the Executive Director of the Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, a trade organization comprised of Merit Shop Electrical Contractors licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection and includes industry related Associate Members. We are an approved provider of apprenticeship training and continued education each approved by the Department of Labor and the Department of Consumer Protection respectively.

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), its contractor members, associates and clients, we are submitting this testimony in **"SUPPORT"** of HB-5135, An Act Expanding the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program to Students of Private Occupational Schools.

As a private occupational school, we are approved by both State and Federal Apprenticeship Training Agencies and we are in total **"SUPPORT"** of this proposed legislation. We believe that by including the private occupational schools in this legislation that it will create a fantastic opportunity for all students attending these schools and establish an opportunity for many that did not have the luxury of applying for this scholarship to help offset some of their expenses. As many can understand, education can be a burdensome expense that prohibits opportunities for those that cannot afford it. Being eligible for this scholarship would allow for an additional avenue that could allow or deny someone an opportunity toward a rewarding career.

I thank you for your time in reading and taking into consideration our position on HB-5135 An Act Expanding the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program To Students Of Private Occupational Schools and respectfully request that you **"SUPPORT"** HB-5135 .